

SAME GOD NEW YEAR

"The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever." (Isaiah 40:8)

BE THE TREE, NOT THE CHAFF

As we face another new year, there will be many things we can't be certain about. But one of the things we can be sure about in 2023, is that there are only two ways in which we can live. According to Psalm 1, we can either choose the way of the world or the way of the Word, and the choice we make has huge impacts on our life. "Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers. But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night. They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do. But not the wicked! They are like worthless chaff, scattered by the wind. They will be condemned at the time of judgment. Sinners will have no place among the godly. For the Lord watches over the path of the godly, but the path of the wicked leads to destruction."

To live in the way of the world is to follow wicked advice, prefer the company of sinners and mock God's Word. The way of the world is to seek independence from God and have only a human and earthly perspective on life. It is to live according to the world's standards and not God's. At times this way appears to be the pathway to success, acceptance, and prosperity but these 'blessings' are fleeting and those who follow this path become like chaff that is blown away by the wind. Their destination is condemnation and destruction. The alternative is a life of dependent delight in loving and following God's divine instruction. The "righteous" recognize the foolishness of the world's wisdom and values and strive to base and build their lives around God's revealed Word. They not only find joy in the gospel message, but they also meditate on it each day. This sends their spiritual roots deeper and deeper, taking in more and more of the life giving water of the Word. The Word then transforms their lives and renew their minds and leads to blessing, fruitfulness, and fellowship with God now and forever. The challenge in striving to 'be the tree' is that in this hectic world it is easy for us to be distracted. We are experts at multi-tasking and skimming, but it is harder than ever to meditate. Therefore, it is imperative to intentionally cultivate meditation on God's Word. Find a consistent time, place, and plan. Then read slowly and carefully. Reread and reread. Read out loud. Read prayerfully. Read with a pen in hand. Memorize texts that you read. Read with other people and talk about what you see. Study a book of the Bible with a good commentary. As we start this year, may we strive to delight in the beauty and value of God's Word and seek to strengthen and sustain that delight through intentional meditation. May we strive to be the tree and not the chaff. God bless, Pastor John.

SAME GOD NEW YEAR

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." (Hebrews 13:8)

YOUTH PASTOR ON HOLIDAYS

Harrison, Jess and the boys will be having a two week break starting from next Wednesday 28th December until Tuesday 10th January. Please pray that they have a great time of refreshment, readying them for the new year ahead.

SUPPORT FOR ALL ABILITIES SOCCER PLAYERS

Our church has committed to financially supporting the new Sunshine Coast Churches Soccer All-Abilities program for 2023. As part of that support we are looking to sponsor 60 jerseys/training shirts at a cost of \$2024. If you would like to help contribute to these shirts there are a few options. You can put some money in an envelope marked "All Abilities" and put it in the offering or give it to Chris Hampton or Pastor John. Or you can send the amount electronically to the church account and call it 'All Abilities'. Thank you in anticipation of your generous support.

NEW YEAR SERMON SERIES

As we welcome in another new year, our January preaching series will be looking at the "Things God Can't Do And How That Helps Us To Have A Happy New Year." It's a big title, but we worship a big, gracious, powerful and awesome God.

MEETING WITH FAMILIES

We would like to invite all our families with kids to meet with the Pastors on Sunday morning 15th January. The purpose of the meeting is to chat about our children's and youth ministries here at CBBC. We are looking for feedback and potential new ideas for 2023 and beyond.



